

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-02 ACDA-19 IO-12 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0547

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

REF: STATE 94750

1. I AGREE REPRESENTATION USG VIEWS ON SUBJECT SHOULD
BE MADE AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL WHICH UPCOMING REYKJAVIK
SUMMIT MTG AFFORDS. ONE OF THE PROPOSALS IN SCHEDULE PRE-
SENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION DURING SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN USG-
GOI BILATERAL DISCUSSION. GOI LEADERS WOULD THINK IT
UNUSUAL IF SUBJECT WERE NOT RAISED DURING THIS BILATERAL AND
WOULD ULTIMATELY INTERPRET FAILURE TO UTILIZE OPPORTUNITY TO
DUSCUSS AT THAT TIME AS LACK OF CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF
USG. LAST WEEK FONMIN CASUALLY REMARKED TO ME HE ASSUMING
ART VII INVOCATION ISSUE NOT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO
DUSCUSS DURING GOI BILATERAL AND PRESUMED DISCUSSION WOULD BE
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LIMITED TO BROAD ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CONCEPTS. FONMIN MAY HOPE THIS TO BE THE CASE, BUT IF IDF AND ART VII NOT SOMEHOW BROUGHT INTO THE CONVERSATION, HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE THIS FAILURE LATER AS PROOF THAT WE HAVE BEEN OVERDRAMATIZING THE EFFECT OF ART VII INVOCATION ON MBFR, ETC.

2. WITH REGARD TO CONCESSIONS FOR RETENTION OF IDF, ALL PRO- IDF ELEMENTS IN THE SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES ARE UNANIMOUS IN WANTING A REDUCTION OF US MILITARY MANPOWER IN ABSOLUTE TERMS THROUGH THE SUBSTITUTION, IF NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS, OF ICELANDIC NATIONALS IN MEANINGFUL JOBS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL (REFERRED TO IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS AS THE " ICELANDIZATION" PROPOSAL). THESE PARTIES DIFFER IN THE EXTENT OF SUBSTITUTION. THE FONMIN WANTS A SUBSTANTIAL SUBSTITUTION WHICH HE HAS AT ONE TIME DEFINED AS RANGING FROM 100 PERCENT BY UTILIZING AMERICAN AND ICELANDIC CIVILIANS IN PLACE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, TO AN ICELANDIZATION FIGURE OF QUOTE WELL OVER 100 END QUOTE. ASIDE FROM THE THE WINDOW- DRESSING CONCESSIONS WE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER OFFERING (SUCH AS SEPARATION OF MILITARY- CIVILIAN AIRPORTS, BASE TV, ETC.), WE HAVE INFORMALLY INDICATED A POSSIBLE ICELANDIZATION PROGRAM OF APPROXIMATELY 100. THIS NUMBER HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO FONMIN. SO FAR USG MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THEIR STUDIES OF THIS ISSUE HAVE NOT COME UP WITH MUCH MORE THAN THAT NUMBER. FONMIN HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN TOLD THERE MUST BE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MILITARY RETAINED AT IDF FOR THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND AND FOR THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT. THE TWO TASKS AHEAD OF US, AS I SEE IT, WHETHER NOR NOT WE SUCCEED IN DISSUADING OR DELAYING ART VII INVOCATION, ARE (1) TO TRY TO PIN DOWN THE FONMIN ON AN ICELANDIZATION NUMBER WHICH WOULD BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO HIM, AND (2) TO ACCELERATE USG MILITARY STUDIES AS TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NUMBER MILITARY PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO PERFORM IDF RESPONSIBILITIES (CONSIDERING ALSO THE SHIFTING OF OR RELOCATING SOME PHYSICAL FACILITIES IF POSSIBLE), AND THE MAXIMUM ICELANDIZATION THAT CAN BE TOLERATED WITHOUT IMPAIRING EFFECTIVENESS OF IDF.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE BASIC ISSUES DURING THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE PERIOD, NAMELY RETENTION OF THE IDF AND THE HARM
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ENVISAGED BY INVOKING ART VII AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, COULD ESTABLISH A FAVORABLE FRAMWORK WITHIN WHICH ACTIVE NEGOTIATION ON IDF MODIFICATIONS CAN SUBSEQUENTLY TAKE PLACE.
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